HB 979 -- Vehicle Dealers

Sponsor: Hough

Currently, a person is prohibited from conducting business to obtain a certificate of ownership for a motor vehicle unless licensed by the Department of Revenue. This bill expands the prohibition to include the ownership or registration of an all-terrain vehicle or trailer or watercraft. The eligibility requirements to issue a certificate of ownership or title for a motor vehicle is changed to include the title or registration of an all-terrain vehicle or trailer or watercraft.

A person selling or transferring ownership of a motor vehicle or trailer is required to record the sale price, trade-in amount, and net price on the title assignment.

Currently, motor vehicle and boat dealers have to file a monthly sales report with the department. The bill adds trailer dealers to those required to file a report and requires the report to be filed weekly in an electronic format. Currently, a dealer must sell six or more vehicles in a year to be considered a dealer. The bill raises it to 12 vehicles per year.

A motor vehicle dealer is allowed to use dealer plates on any vehicle he or she owns while hauling a vehicle owned by the dealer.

Currently a majority of dealers must be invited to participate in an off-site sale. The bill requires that all dealers in a city or town where the sale is taking place to be invited. Currently the department must receive a 10-day notice of an off-site sale. The bill extends it to 30 days, and participants must be invited 60 days in advance.

Currently, it is a class D felony for a person to sell six or more vehicles in a calendar year without meeting specified criteria. The bill increases the number of vehicles to 12.